

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates state and federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

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Member-at-Large

Chet Krage
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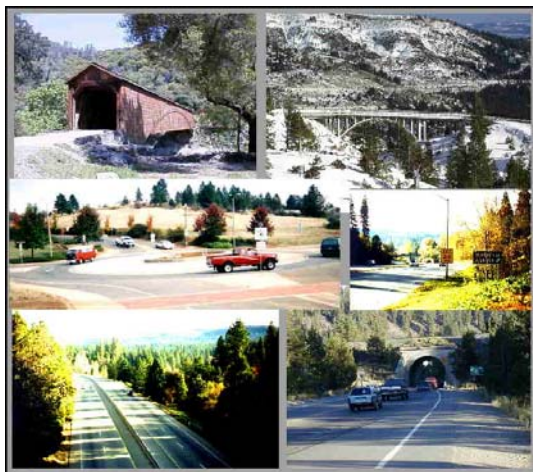
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Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter

Nevada County Transportation Commission
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The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published bimonthly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write or call the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Each transportation planning agency is required by law (Government Code 99238 stated in the California Transportation Development Act) to provide for the establishment of a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC) which implements a citizen participation process to identify transit needs in the jurisdiction. SSTAC membership is to include representatives for the elderly, disabled, and persons of limited means. The council's responsibilities include participation in the annual identification of unmet transit needs. They also advise the transportation planning agency on other transit related issues.



Annual Transit Needs Assessment FY 2002-03 discussed at May 15th NCTC meeting in Truckee

Annually a public hearing and county-wide workshops are held by the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) to gather input from citizens regarding unmet transit needs they would like to see met. NCTC staff then analyzes the feasibility of those identified transit needs using an adopted set of criteria defined by the Commission and produces a report entitled, "Nevada County Transit Needs Assessment". The SSTAC then holds meetings to review the report and to provide a recommendation of action to the Commission. The Commission reviews the report and SSTAC recommendations and then adopts a finding that determines if

there are unmet transit needs that are reasonable to meet.

As part of its transportation planning process NCTC contracts with transit consultants every five years to prepare a "Transit Development Plan Update" (see article on page 3). The Transit Development Plan (TDP) reviews the strengths and weaknesses of the current transit service program and proposes a service plan for the next five years. Since Nevada County has two separate transit service regions, the consultant prepares an eastern and a western Transit Development Plan. Gold Country Stage and Gold Country Telecare serve western Nevada County while the eastern portion of Nevada County provides transit service through the Truckee Trolley, Truckee Dial-A-Ride, and Tahoe Area Regional Transit (TART). The NCTC asks SSTAC to review and comment on both proposed Transit Development Plans as one means of obtaining community input.



Gold Country Stage provided transportation to Truckee for the May 15th NCTC meeting

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Upcoming NCTC Meetings

The next two meetings of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) are scheduled as follows:
Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 18, 2002 at 9:30 a.m., in the Town of Truckee Council Chambers, 10183 Truckee Airport Road, Truckee, CA; and
Wednesday, OCTOBER 16, 2002 evening meeting, in the Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, CA.



OUR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

On June 9, 1998, President Clinton signed into law the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21). Included in the act is the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program, known to many as Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA), which offers broad opportunities and federal dollars to take unique and creative actions to integrate transportation into our communities. Federal Transportation Enhancement funds are to be used for transportation-related capital improvement projects that enhance quality-of-life while providing the greatest benefit to the largest number of people. (continued on page 3)

SOCIAL SERVICES TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS (continued from page 1)



Truckee's Alex Terrazas (2nd from L) & Mayor Ron Florian (center) shown with Dial-A-Ride staff Hans Osterman (L), Stephanie Cotton (R), and Ken Dailey

The NCTC held two meetings in August with SSTAC members to discuss and get input on the draft eastern and western Transit Development Plan reports for fiscal years 2002-07.

The Nevada County SSTAC consists of representatives from various social service groups and organizations, as well as county residents, who annually attend SSTAC meetings to discuss the identified transit needs and advise the Commission. State law requires a Social Services Transportation Advisory Council be established with a minimum of nine members. Because the Nevada County Transportation Commission earnestly seeks citizen input on transit and paratransit issues, it has expanded the membership of the Nevada County SSTAC to include thirteen individuals. Members of the SSTAC are appointed by the Commission and serve a three-year term.

The current SSTAC members represent the following groups and organizations:

- ◆ **Harriet McKay**, resident of Nevada City – Potential transit users 60 years of age or older.
- ◆ **Gary Engelking**, resident of Grass Valley – Potential transit users with disabilities.
- ◆ **Richard Crandall**, Director of Sierra Services for the Blind, and **Don Martin**, Executive Director of Gold Country Telecare, Inc. – Local social service and transportation providers for seniors.
- ◆ **Susan Healy-Harmon**, Gold Country Telecare, and **Vicki MacDonald**, California Department of Rehabilitation – Local social service and transportation providers for persons with disabilities.
- ◆ **Rob Shotwell**, Nevada County Department of Social Services – Local social service provider for persons of limited means.
- ◆ **Virgil Wong**, Gold Country Stage transit operator for the Nevada County Transit Services Department, and **Michael Hill-Weld**, Director of the Nevada County Department of Transportation who is currently filling the position held for the Director of the Nevada County Transit Services Department – Local transit operator and local consolidated transportation service agency.
- ◆ **Don Huber**, resident of the Town of Truckee - Truckee area residents 60 years of age or older.
- ◆ **Margarita R. de Nevarez**, Truckee Family Resource Center – Hispanic population in the Truckee area.
- ◆ **Jerry Mehren** and **Paul Mucci**, residents of Grass Valley and Nevada City – Transit users in western Nevada County.



From left: SSTAC members Don Martin, Susan Healy-Harman and Harriet McKay at May NCTC Meeting in Truckee



Paul Mucci (left), SSTAC member, discussing item with NCTC Executive Director Dan Landon



Jerry Mehren (right) of SSTAC and Mike Woodman, NCTC Transportation Planner, talk at May NCTC Meeting

Don Martin recently shared his thoughts on the SSTAC and what he would like to see accomplished by the council. Don said, "As the Chairman of the SSTAC council it is my goal to help the members and residents of Nevada County identify unmet transit needs and to find a way to meet those needs in a cost effective manner. It brings me a great deal of pleasure when we are able to meet the citizens' needs and provide cost efficient services over a long period of time."



Virgil Wong, SSTAC member and Gold Country Stage transit operator

This article was prepared as a means of informing citizens of the existence and purpose of the Social Services Transportation Advisory Council and to invite them to participate in discussions of transit and paratransit issues in Nevada County. We value the public's input and the Commission encourages public ownership of the SSTAC process. ***A meeting will be held with SSTAC on September 3rd 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.*** at the Nevada County Superintendent of Schools Office, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City ***to discuss the Transit Needs Assessment for FY 2002-03. The public is welcome.***

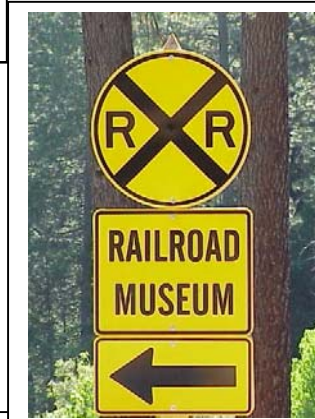
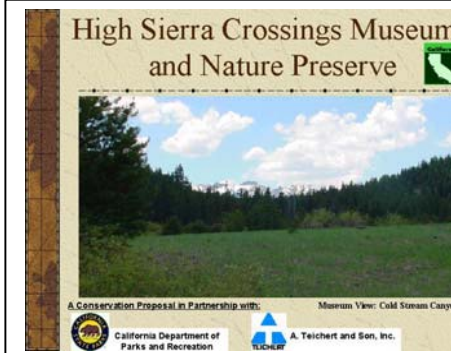
****A BUS TO TRUCKEE is scheduled for the September 18, 2002 NCTC meeting.** If you would like to join us at this meeting, please call the NCTC office (265-3202) for details and to reserve a seat on the bus.

TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM / LOCAL TEA PROJECTS (continued from page 1)

It is the policy of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to foster and encourage partnerships with state and local officials and public interest groups to improve the delivery of these valuable transportation enhancements. Projects must meet the requirements of one of twelve categories to be eligible for funding and be related to surface transportation. A project is "enhanced" by doing something that is not a common practice. Examples include the establishment of a transportation museum, the provision of a bike or pedestrian path, or the restoration of a historic train structure. California will receive approximately \$60 million per year for six years, starting in 1997. This is divided into four shares: 1) Regional 2) Conservation Lands 3) Caltrans 4) Statewide Environmental Enhancement.

We would like to report on a few of Nevada County's recent TEA funded projects.

HIGH SIERRA CROSSINGS MUSEUM & NATURE PRESERVE – The California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved \$3.1 million at their April meeting from the statewide portion of Federal Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) funds to develop a Donner-area museum. The amount covers the planning, design, and initial site work, and supplements the \$0.9 million contributed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the \$0.8 million contributed by A. Teichert and Son, Inc. in donating the land and land-use entitlements. CTC also prioritized as third on a secondary list the remaining \$1.8 million needed to fulfill the entire scope of the project. Projects on the secondary list will be funded with new revenues and cost savings from other projects. It is likely the second part of funding will be received within three to four years. Construction is slated to begin in 2006.



NEVADA COUNTY NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD MUSEUM – The "Grand Opening" of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad (NCNGRR) Museum is scheduled for Saturday, September 21 beginning at 12:00 p.m. The dedication ceremony will commence at 2:00 p.m. The museum is located at #5 Kidder Court in Nevada City. Featured displays include historic NCNGRR Engine No. 5 highlighting its Hollywood career in some 22 western movies. Artifacts, volumes of photos, and historical collections will also be on display. The two-acre complex features a large interpretive center, gift shop, meeting room, and restoration shop where rolling stock will undergo restoration and maintenance. The amount funded from Nevada County's regional share of TEA dollars is \$392,161.

TRUCKEE RIVER TRAIL – Preliminary engineering and environmental surveys, as well as coordination with affected property owners, have begun on the Truckee River Trail project. Work is expected to continue over the winter and completion of the project is anticipated in the spring of 2003. This is a joint project between the Truckee/Donner Recreation and Park District and local civic and non-profit organizations. The trail will proceed along the Truckee River from SR 89 to Glenshire and provides a route for non-motorized vehicles and pedestrians to the most populated areas in the community. Interpretive signage is proposed to indicate historical and natural resources along the route. The regional share of TEA funding awarded is \$294,120.

COMBIE ROAD BIKE PATH – The Nevada County Department of Transportation is doing preliminary engineering to develop plans and specifications for this bike path extending from SR 49 to the Magnolia/Combie Road intersection. The path is targeted to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists along this section of roadway and will connect with the existing trail that extends from Cottage Hill Elementary School, past Magnolia Middle School and Bear River High School, to the Magnolia/Combie Road intersection. The tentative construction schedule is set for 2003 but right-of-way acquisition from PG & E may delay the project. TEA dollars funded for this project from the regional share total \$221,022.



TRANSIT DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR FY 2002-2007

In January 2002 the NCTC contracted with LSC Transportation Consultants, Inc. to prepare the eastern and western Nevada County Transit Development Plan (TDP) Updates for FY 2002-2007. This planning document takes an in-depth look at the transit systems currently in place. LSC completed the draft reports for both sectors that analyze existing operating characteristics of the transit system, the need for capital replacements, and the funding sources available over the next five years. The key issue identified in the eastern and western transit systems are substantial funding deficits over the plan period. The studies analyze all aspects of the transit operations including service plans, capital equipment, management issues, and financial needs. The reports present recommendations aimed at ensuring the financial sustainability of the transit systems in Nevada County.

NCTC staff met with the SSTAC (see article on page 1) to review both draft reports and public workshops will be scheduled to provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the recommendations presented in the plan. The final reports will then be prepared and presented to NCTC, the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, and the Truckee Town Council.